



Special Session Proposal

‘What’s the impact?’: the state of social and economic impact modeling, and its role in a transitioning world.

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Abstract

Predicting and understanding the impact of policies and initiatives on regions has become central for allocating resources and evaluating the ramification of often complex decision-making processes. The renovated interest in undertaking an active industrial policy shared by many national and regional governments, coupled with several transformative transition processes have made regional modeling relevant. Over the past three decades, regional modeling has taken multiple forms and used several tools: I/O models, (D) (S) CGE models, macroeconomic regional growth models, Agent-Based Models, and models accounting for wellbeing, and socioecological models have been developed at various scales and applied to answer multiple questions.

Building upon this rich literature, in this session we will combine case studies with a discussion on the challenges that all these methods are facing, and the opportunities they can build on, including cross-integrations, cross-contaminations, and issues related to uncertainty due to crossing tipping points. Furthermore, this session will explore the role of accounting in evaluating the impact of policies and initiatives on regions. Accounting aspects and reporting will be included in the discussion, with a focus on popular accounting as a dialogic means to engage the public in the analysis of the impact of political decisions.

This session is envisioned as a mixed session: each presenter will have the opportunity to share their work in a 5-by-5 (5 content slides in 5 minutes) format. Following the presentations, the session will give the audience and the participants the opportunity to discuss and share their views. The session will have a moderator (Dr. Patrizio Lecca): the moderator will use the following questions to kickoff the conversation:

1. What are the challenges for cross-integration?
2. What are challenges are posed by tipping-points?
3. What are the most important metrics for evaluating the impacts, and have they changed/are they changing?